

JUNE 1997
17

ZERO

\$3.95
\$5.50
CANADA

ZERO



IN THIS ISSUE: MICHAEL DOUGAN IS...

DOUBLE - BOOKED



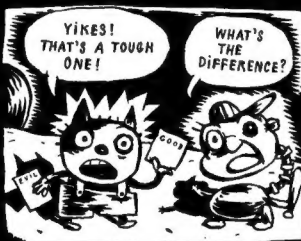
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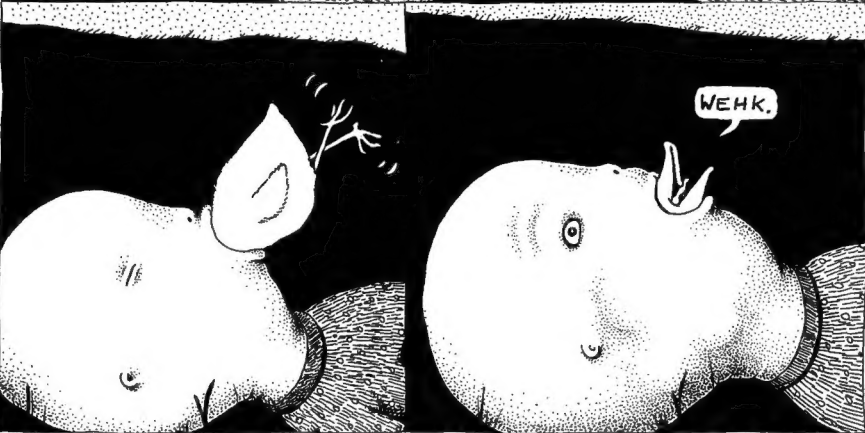
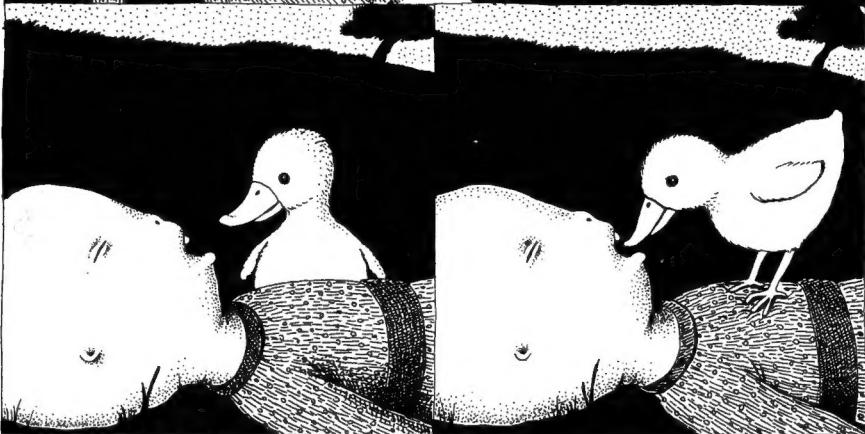
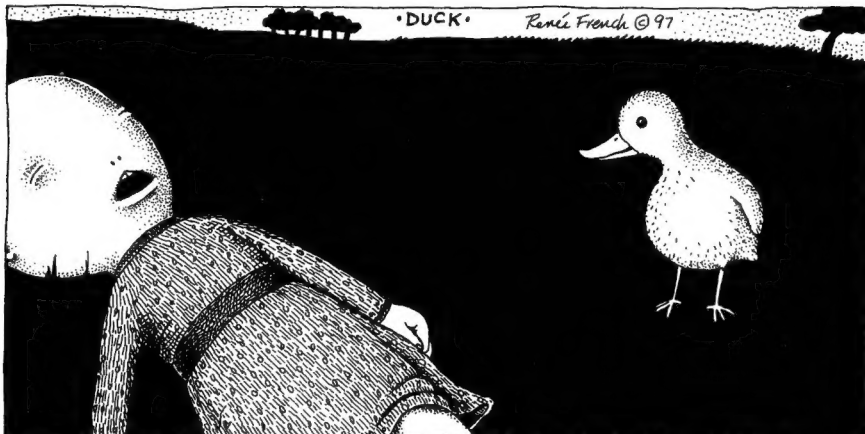
A TRUE STORY OF HORROR
AND DESPAIR... A CARTOONIST'S
REAL-LIFE NIGHTMARE!

Silent storie

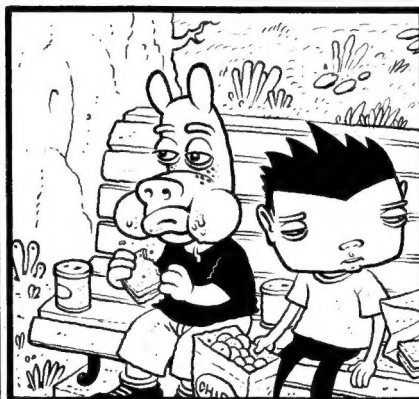
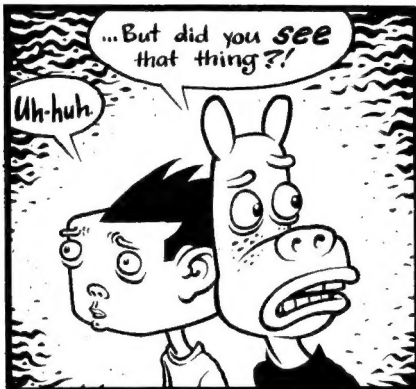


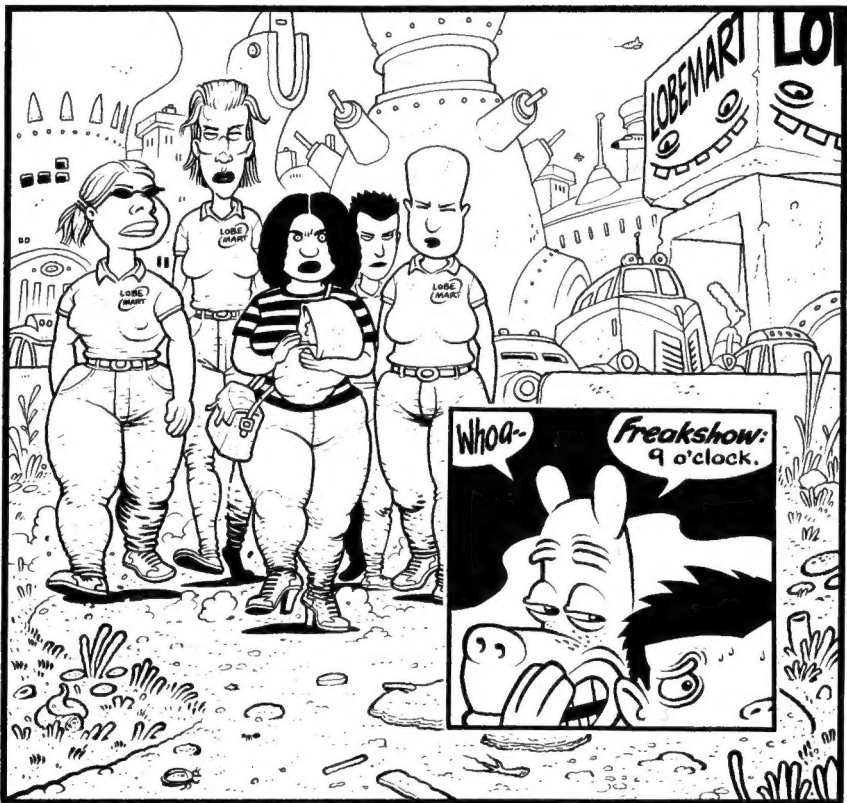
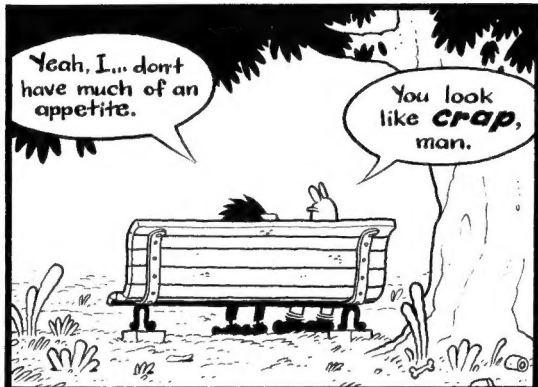
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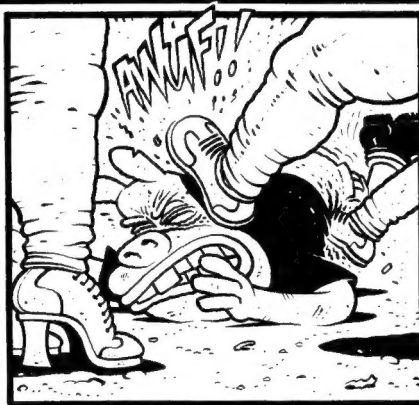
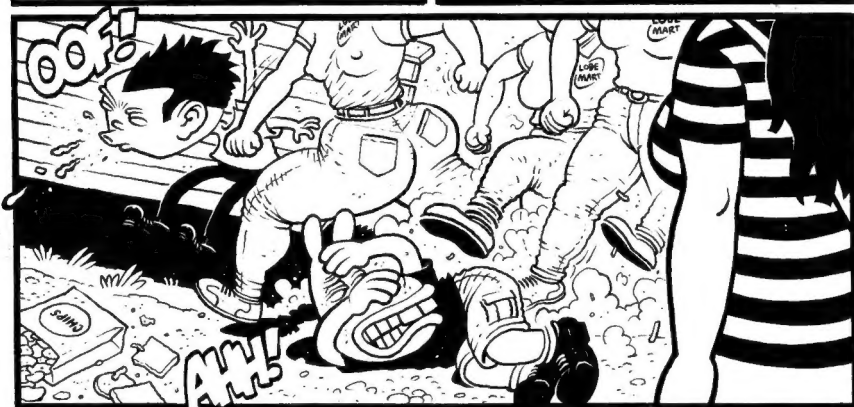


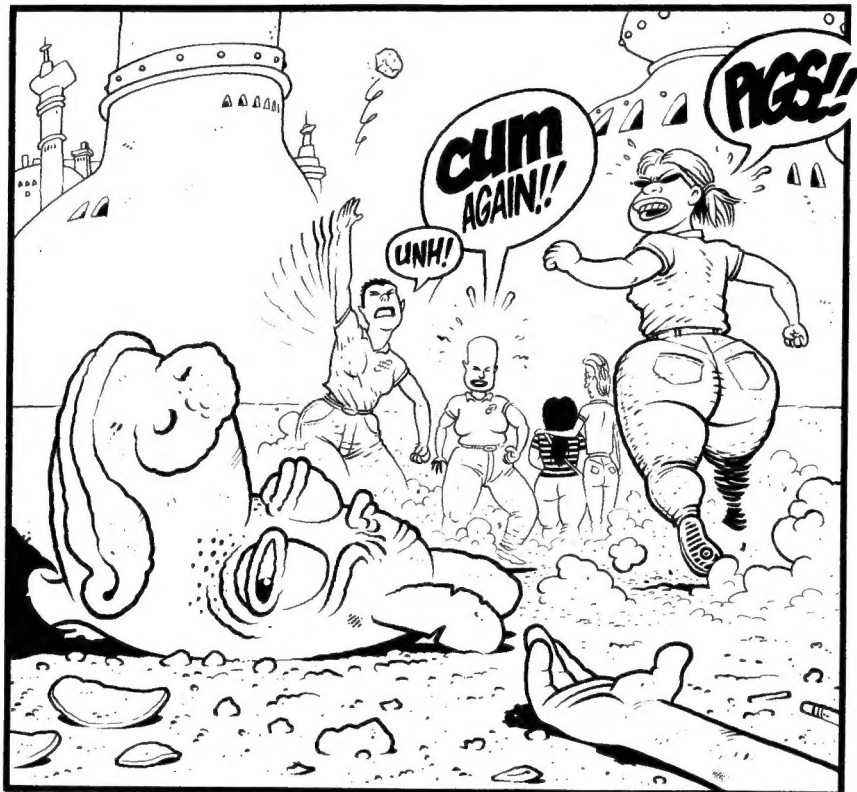


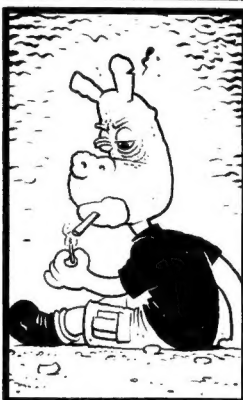














NAKED
Bitches
strip bar &
eatery
HOLLYWOOD

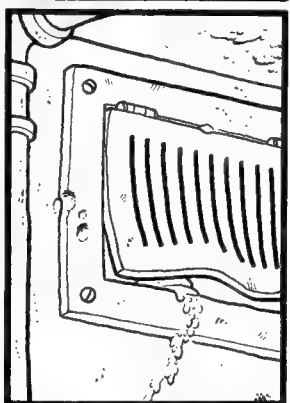
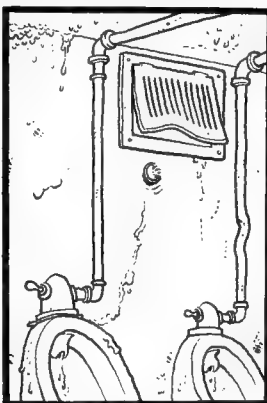
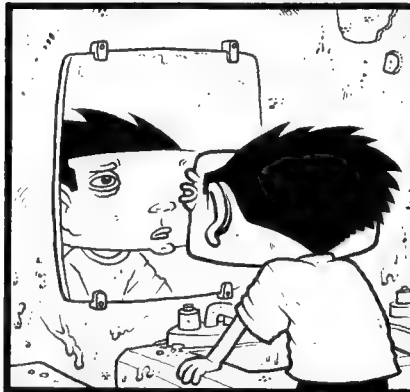
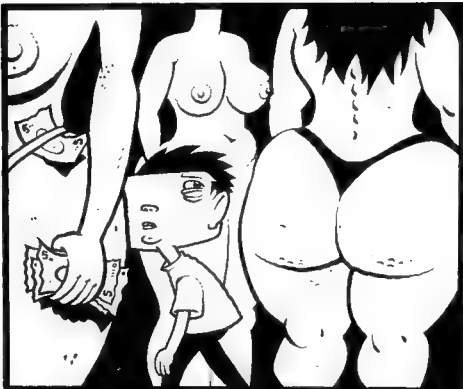
This's more
LIKE it!

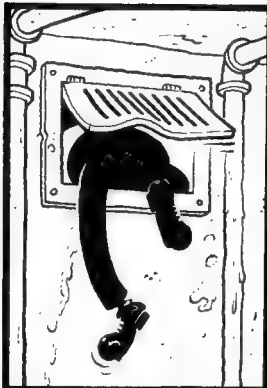
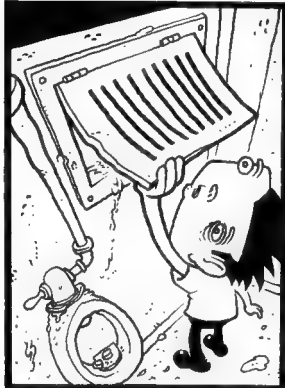
STAY
+ EVER

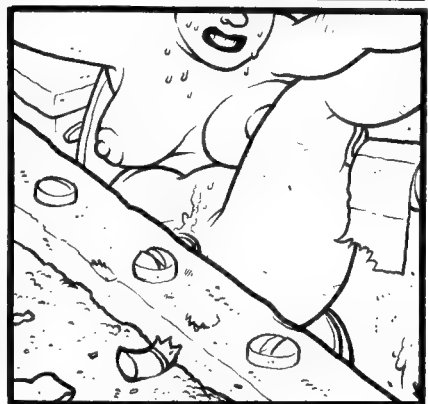
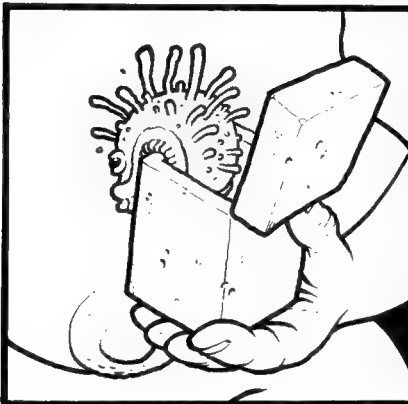
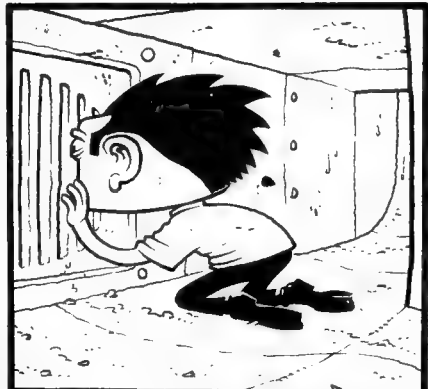
Two beers
& a table
dance.

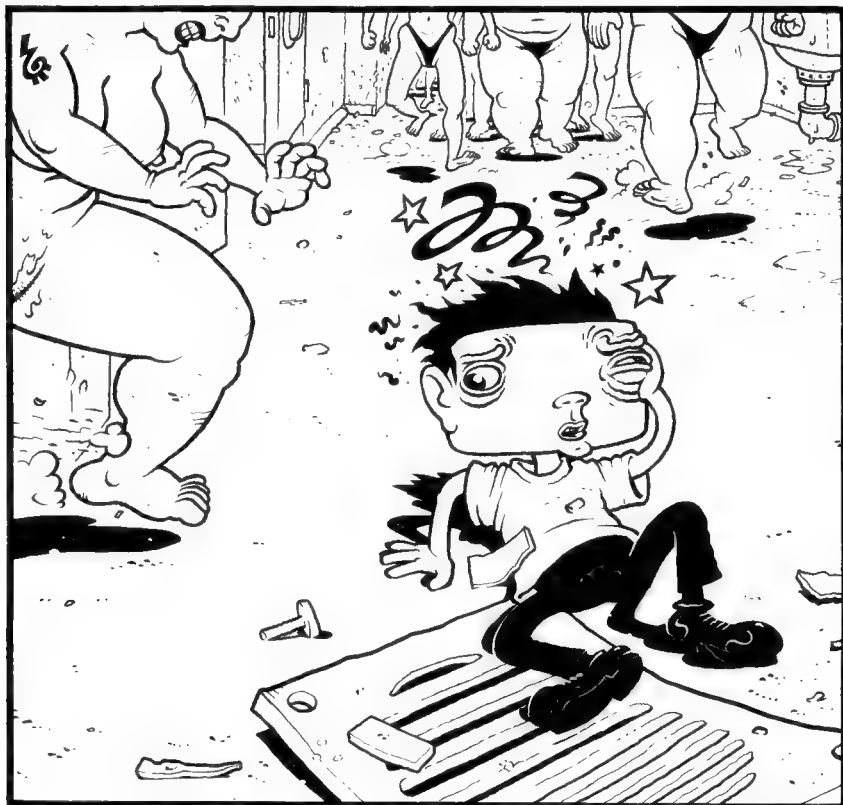
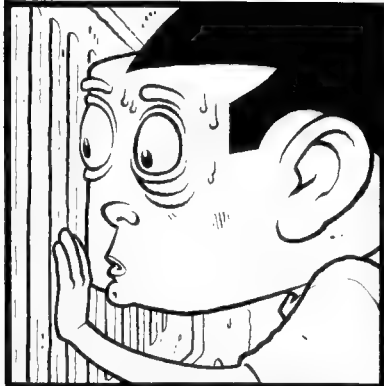
SNAP





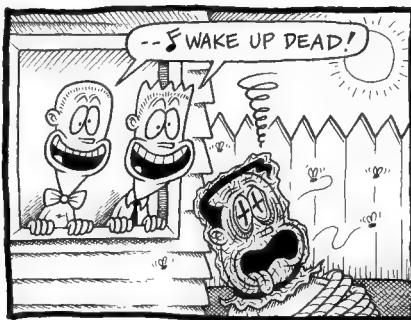
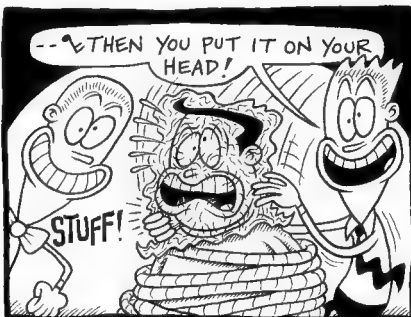
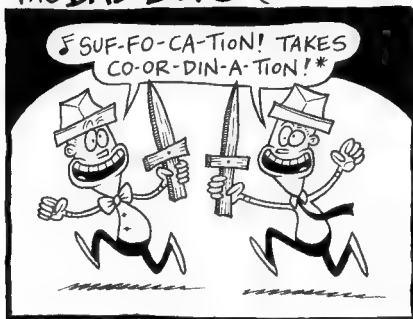






TO BE CONTINUED.

The BAD BOYS (*To the tune of "ALOUETTE") ©'95 by WILLIAMS



IT'S TRUE...

THE DIARY OF A CARTOON NIGHTMARE

DOUBLE-BOOKED?

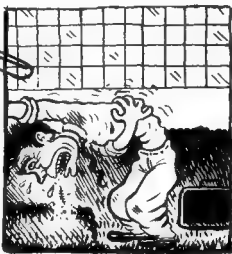


It all began WHEN I GOT HIRED TO DRAW CARICATURES AT THE SEATTLE SHERATON IN MAY OF 1987, FOR A CONVENTION OF INDUSTRIAL PLANNERS...

It ended WITH ME THROWING UP IN THE BUSHES OUTSIDE THE HOTEL AND WONDERING IF I WOULD EVER WORK IN THIS TOWN AGAIN.

IT'S A FUN JOB, DRAWING CARICATURES AT SPECIAL EVENTS. I'VE DRAWN FOOD IMPORTERS, COCA-COLA SALESMEN, MICROSCOPE SCIENTISTS, DENTISTS, EDUCATORS, LEGISLATORS AND THEIR CHILDREN... THESE PEOPLE SPARE NO EXPENSE TO ENTERTAIN THEMSELVES AT THESE EVENTS.

ALONG WITH THE CATERERS, SET DESIGNERS, ICE SCULPTORS AND MUSICIANS, THEY ALSO HIRE CLOWNS, JUGGLERS, MIMES, AND CARICATURISTS... IT WORKS LIKE THIS. I SHOW UP, DRAW, AND GET PAID. ...SOUNDS EASY, RIGHT?



SO ONE DAY I GOT A CALL FROM A COORDINATOR FOR THE INDUSTRIAL PLANNERS RESOURCE COUNCIL, WHOSE BI-ANNUAL "CONGRESS" WOULD BE HELD AT THE SHERATON IN JUST A FEW WEEKS.

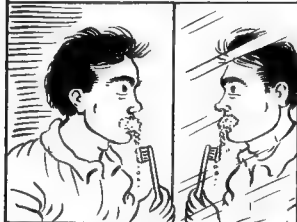
COULD I DO CARICATURES IN THEIR SUITE FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS?

NO SWEAT. I LOOKED AT MY CALENDAR AND SAID YES.

I GOT ANOTHER CALL ABOUT THE SAME EVENT AND AGAIN, I SAID YES.



ON THE NIGHT OF THE EVENT, IT SUDDENLY BECAME CLEAR TO ME THAT I HAD SAID YES TO TWO DIFFERENT COORDINATORS REPRESENTING DIFFERENT STATES AT THE SAME EVENT.



DOUBLE-BOOKED?



THROUGH A SEATTLE AGENCY, I HAD SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TULSA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO WORK FOR TWO NIGHTS IN THEIR SUITE.

OVER THE PHONE I HAD ALSO AGREED TO WORK FOR ONE NIGHT IN THE WASHINGTON STATE SUITE.

BECAUSE I HAD SAID YES TO WASHINGTON FIRST, AND BECAUSE I LIVE HERE, I CALLED THE AGENT FOR TULSA...



YES... UH-HUH... THAT'S INTERESTING. WELL, YOU HAVE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT, WE SUGGEST YOU INFORM WASHINGTON...

BUT..

CLICK

THEN I CALLED REGINA OF WASHINGTON STATE AND EXPLAINED MY SITUATION.

...I'VE GOT THIS LITTLE PROBLEM...

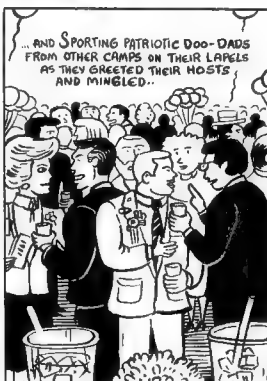
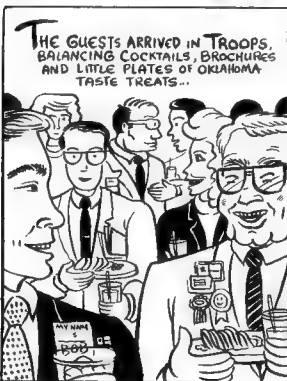
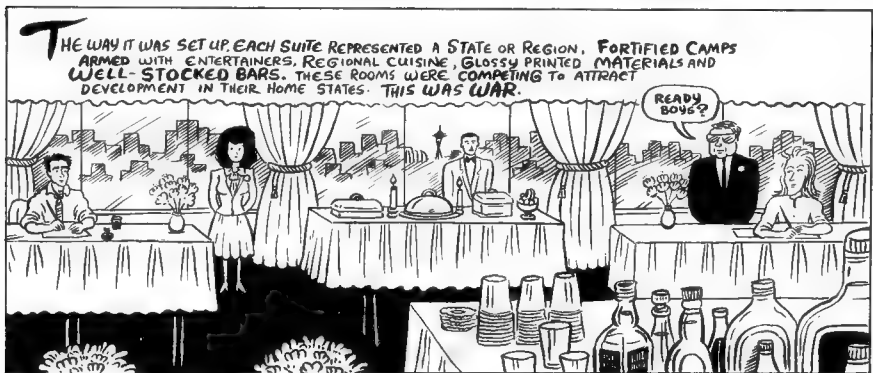
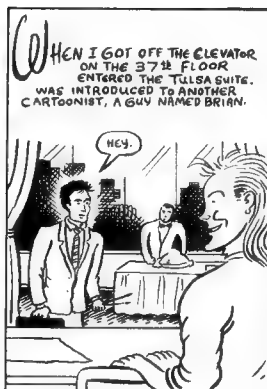
?

WASHINGTON PLANNERS WILL FIND THIS A SLAP IN THE FACE IF YOU DON'T SHOW UP. YOU WILL BE THERE. PERIOD.

BUT..

CLICK

?





IF I COULD JUST GET THROUGH THE NIGHT, I THOUGHT, I COULD FIGURE A WAY OUT OF MY WASHINGTON STATE OBLIGATION AND EVERYONE WOULD BE HAPPY.



AS THE EVENING PROGRESSED, THE GUESTS WOULD WANDER FROM MY TABLE, TO BRIAN'S TABLE AND BACK, COMPARING CARICATURES AND DISCUSSING THE ACTION IN OTHER ROOMS.



WHEN THE 6 HOURS WERE UP, MY FACE ACHED. I HAD NEVER GRINNED FOR SO MANY HOURS, AND ON AN EMPTY STOMACH...



AS I WAS CLEANING MY BRUSH, DEBBIE SUE INQUIRED ABOUT MY PROBLEM.

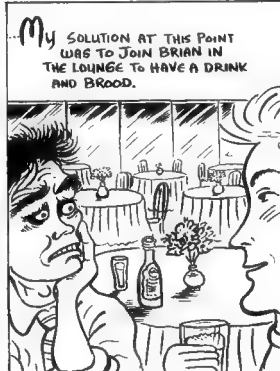
...IS THIS GONNA PUT YOU IN A PICKLE?

"EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION! MICHAEL CARICATURIST! MICHAEL DOUGAN WILL CAPTURE YOUR LIKENESS AND YOUR FANCY! 6:00-7:00 WASHINGTON STATE SUITE..."

THEN SHE HANDED ME A GLOSSY RED BROCHURE, CUT AND PRINTED IN THE SHAPE OF AN APPLE...



...WITH MY NAME FEATURED AS ENTERTAINMENT IN THE WASHINGTON STATE ROOM FOR 3 HOURS THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...



MY SOLUTION AT THIS POINT WAS TO JOIN BRIAN IN THE LOUNGE TO HAVE A DRINK AND BROOD.



ON THE 2ND DRINK, I SAW MY PROBLEM IN A MUCH LESS THREATENING WAY.

AND THEN I SAID YES...

I EXPLAINED THE SITUATION TO BRIAN...



BY MY THIRD DRINK I HAD WORKED MYSELF INTO A FRENZY...

ARE WE HOPELESSLY ATTRACTED TO THE SOUND OF BEATING STICKS?!

THE SMELL OF BLOOD?

SATHHHH...

...THE URGE TO TEST OURSELVES UNDER PRESSURE TO SEE WHAT WE'RE MADE OF???

WE GOTTA GO

HEY, YOU LOOK LIKE A TOUGH GUY! WELL I BET YOU CAN'T DRAW! ...YOU THINK DRAWING COMICS IS EASY?

THAT NIGHT
I HAD A
VERY STRANGE
DREAM...



...CAVEMEN WERE TRASHING MY DRAWING ROOM...



I THOUGHT I WAS BEING ATTACKED...
I SCRAMBLED AROUND
LOOKING FOR A STICK. THE
NOISE WAS DEAFENING...



THEN I REALIZED
THEY WERE NOT
ATTACKING ME, BUT
...THE SOUND OF BEATING
STICKS... THEY WERE
COMMUNICATING!
THERE WAS SOME
MESSAGE IN THE
NOISE, IT HAD SOME
KIND OF MEANING!
I COULDN'T FIGURE
IT OUT...
WHAT DID IT MEAN?



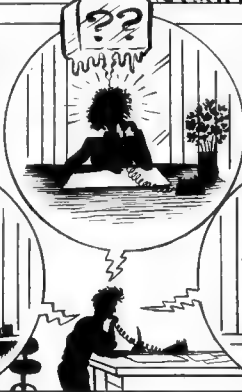


IT WAS THE LACK OF SOLID FOOD, NOT THE SOUND OF BEATING STICKS THAT WAS THE PROBLEM...



I DRANK ICE WATER AND STARTED MAKING PHONE CALLS...

I CALLED REGINA OF WASHINGTON STATE... ANNE FROM THE AGENCY, AND DEBBIE SUE FROM TULSA...



I SOON REALIZED THAT THERE WAS NO WAY TO AVOID A DISASTER.

My decision was to HONOR MY COMMITMENT TO WASHINGTON STATE, AND FIND A REPLACEMENT FOR MYSELF IN TULSA...



I CALLED AROUND TO FIND AN AVAILABLE CARTOONIST...

HEY MIKE! WHAT'S UP? HI MARK! LOOK, I'M IN A SPOT HERE, COULD YOU...?

UH-HUH - WHAT? HAHAHAHAAAA HAHAHAHAAAA

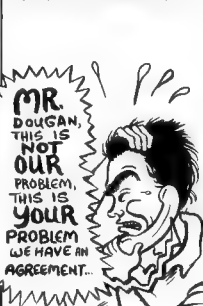
HEY MARK... LOOK MAN, A SIMPLE NO WILL DO... TICK



I CALLED OUT FOR EVERY CARTOONIST I COULD FIND, AND PACED ANXIOUSLY WHILE THE CALLS CAME BACK IN...

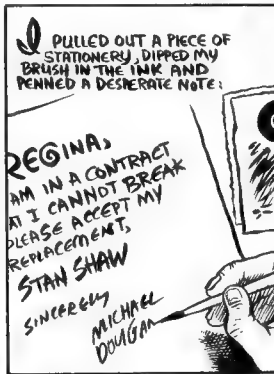
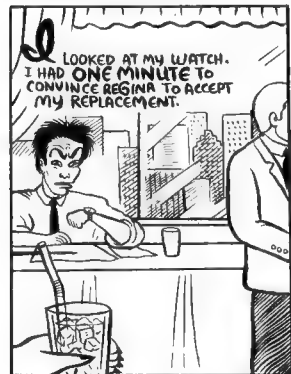
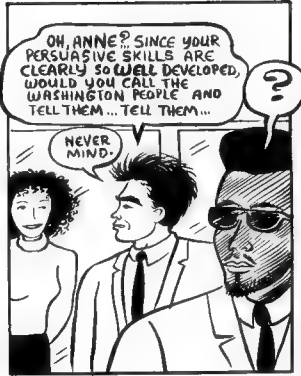


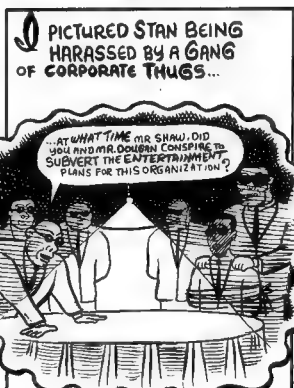
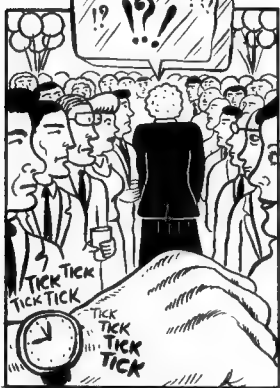
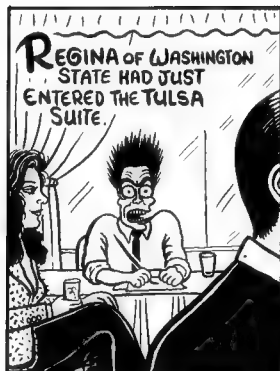
TULSA'S "CONTRACT MAN" CALLED AND WANTED TO KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS...

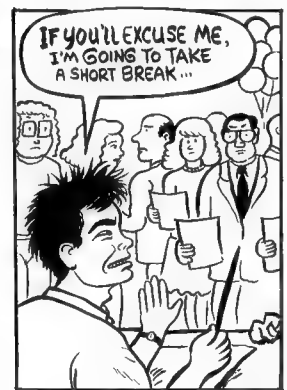
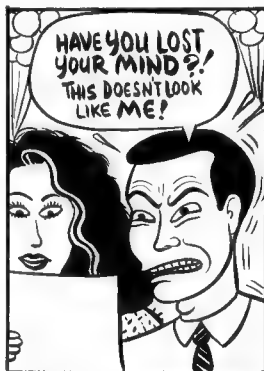
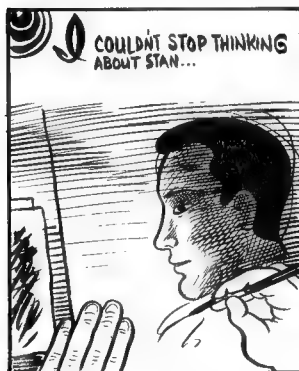
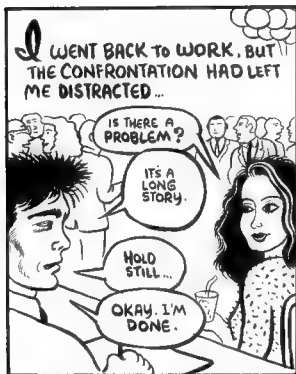


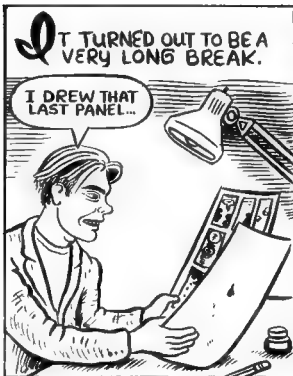
IT WAS THE ONE AND ONLY CONVERSATION I HAD WITH ONE OF THE INVISIBLE MEN THAT ACTUALLY RUN THESE THINGS.

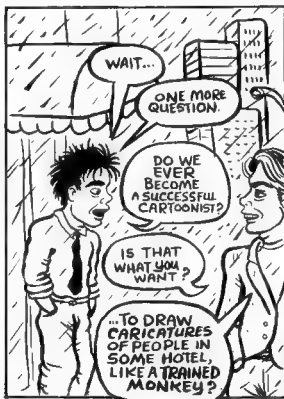






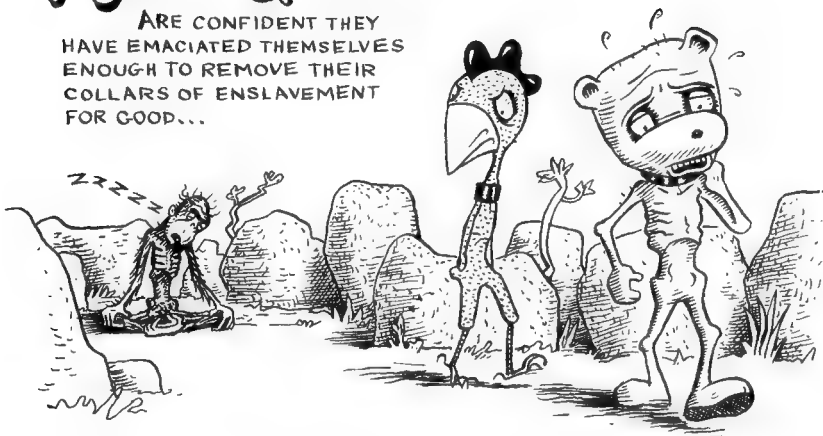




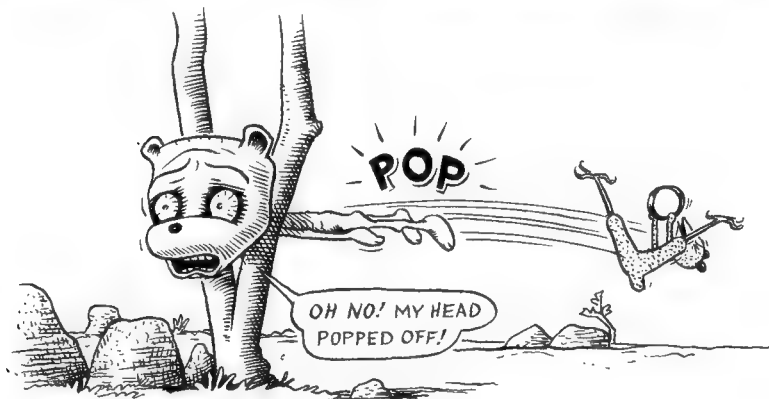
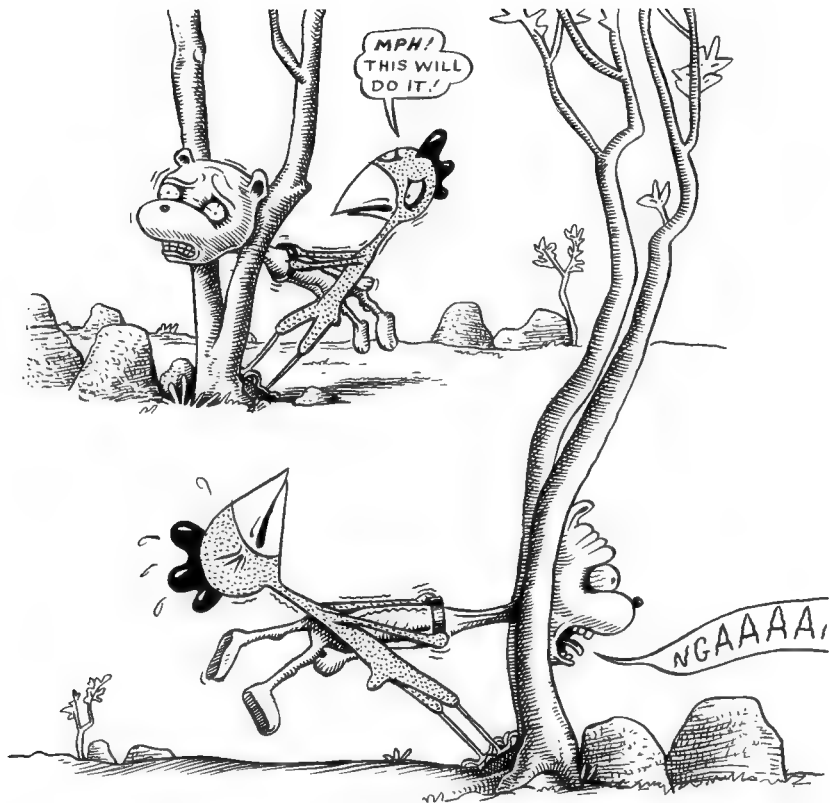


FUZZ & PLUCK

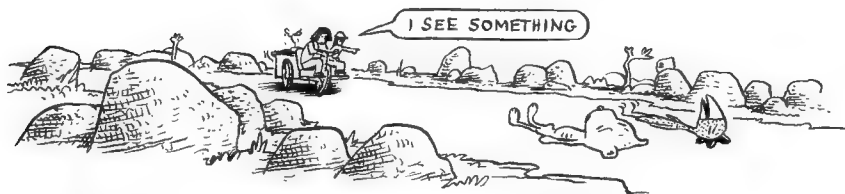
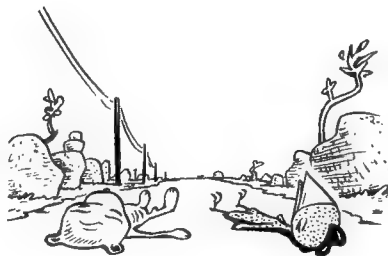
ARE CONFIDENT THEY
HAVE EMACIATED THEMSELVES
ENOUGH TO REMOVE THEIR
COLLARS OF ENSLAVEMENT
FOR GOOD...











IT LOOKS LIKE ROAD KILL, DOCTOR

GOOD. WRITE THAT DOWN



THEY MUST BE INDIGENOUS TO THIS AREA...



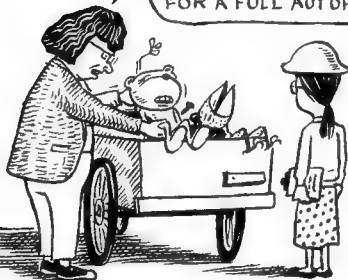
HOW ODD...THIS CHICKEN HAS BEEN PLUCKED



AND THIS LOOKS LIKE A TEDDY BEAR - NOTE THAT IT IS SEVERELY MALNOURISHED



THIS IS QUITE UNUSUAL... WE MUST TAKE THESE CARCASSES BACK TO THE LAB FOR A FULL AUTOPSY



DOCTOR...IF I MAY CONJECTURE...
CERTAINLY



PERHAPS THE BEAR,
HUNGRY AND DESPERATE,
SPOTS THE CHICKEN,
HALF-STARVED AS WELL
IN THIS HARSH TERRAIN...



DETERMINED TO CAPTURE
HIS PREY, THE BEAR...



KNOCKS THE CHICKEN
UNCONSCIOUS WITH ONE OF
THE MANY STONES IN
THE AREA...



THEN, AS THE BEAR PROCEEDS
TO PLUCK THE FEATHERS OFF
THE CHICKEN IN ORDER
TO EAT IT...



THE CHICKEN REGAINS
CONSCIOUSNESS FROM ALL
THE PLUCKING...



AND ATTEMPTS
TO ESCAPE...



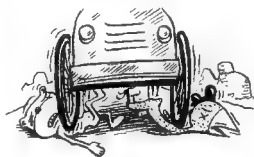
BUT IS CLOSELY FOLLOWED
BY THE FURIOUS BEAR,
DEPRIVED OF HIS MEAL...

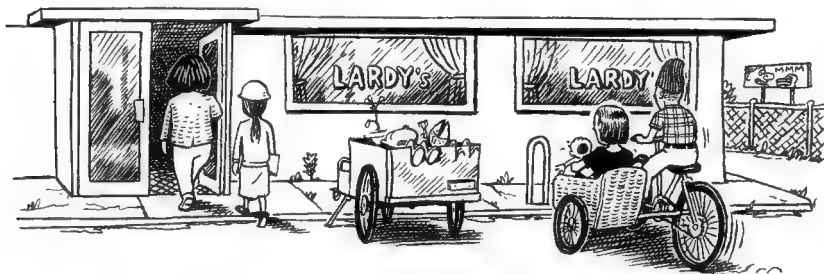


THE CHASE CONTINUES AS
THEY CROSS THE ROAD...

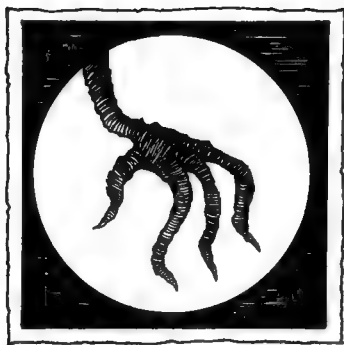


WHERE THEY ARE SUDDENLY
RUN OVER SIMULTANEOUSLY
BY AN UNSEEN VEHICLE...





TO BE CONTINUED



the Chuckling Whatsit

© 1997 Richard Sala

Previously ~

Broom, in Crow's Creek digging into the life of outsider artist Jarnac, learns about Celeste from Dr. Vogardus, and has an unsettling experience in the old windmill, during which he finds ~ then loses ~ the peculiar hanging doll. That same night he encounters the mysterious Mr. Inay ~ and is caught up in a melee with G.A.S.H. He finds temporary refuge at the office of Dr. Vogardus, but soon runs into trouble again.

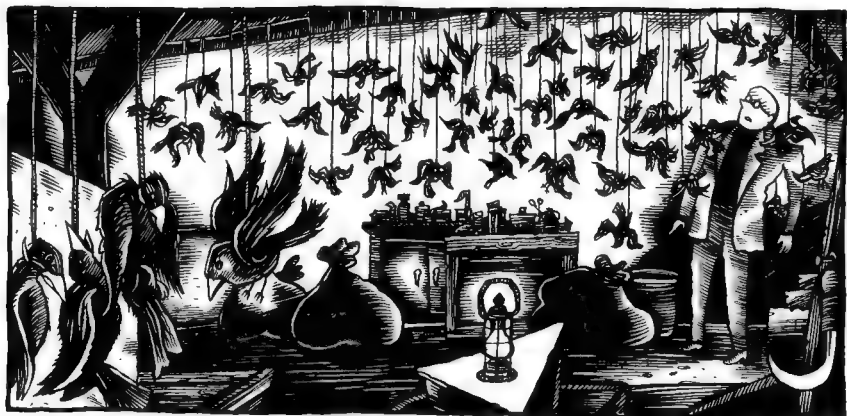






Like I said, it ought to be right around here somewhere.







Sniff... Sniff...



Hey! ~ Hey, are ~
uh ~ you okay?



My God! He's holding you prisoner! Hang on! ~
I'll help you: ~ Here's a key!



Yeah ~ this'll do the trick.
Hey! ~ That doll! ~
Oh wow ~

click



Are ~ are you Celeste?



It's Vogardus, isn't it? He's probably kept you prisoner since the night he found Jarnac dead. ~ Hey, maybe he even killed Jarnac to get you back?

No, no.

No.

No. I still ~ remember.

The doctor ~ for a long time he didn't know I was here. After Emile was ~ gone ~ I hid down here ~ in our secret place. I only went out at night, to ~ feed myself.

Then, one day, the doctor found the trap door, ~ found me. ~ He was so angry! Yet, so ~ strange.

The doctor is old, you know ~ very old! ~ But he's strong! He has the strength of a wild beast!

He was surprised when he saw me. ~ Then he laughed. ~ Then he screamed and screamed. Then he took away my children. Took them away?



All except the very special ones. This one and the other one.



So, you were the reason he trashed the place. Your husband wanted to keep your existence a secret so he could hold you here, make sure you never ran away again.



Hee hee hee! ~ This way.



Jeez! What the #@&☆?!



≡Sigh≡ ~ Oh, those were just
some nice young people I met
outside one night when I was
looking for something to eat. They
came down later to help me.
Very sad.



And there have been others.
So many others. ~



Oh! Here's what I was
looking for!



Huh?? ~ How did that
get down here?



Tsk. Somebody tried to
take it. Little Phoebe
found it and brought it
back. But she hid it
from me. The doctor ~
he doesn't want me to
play with it. He says
it makes me think
bad thoughts.



Hee hee hee! Little Phoebe
should have given it to me!
She's a naughty girl.
Naughty, naughty, naughty!



Hmm ~ Phoebe. She's the doctor's "ward." Hh! She's been helping him.



When Vogardus found you, he probably came upon Jarnac's Ghoul get-up hidden down here, too. Man! It must have blown his mind! Like he said ~ he "went a little mad."



When he learned Root had stumbled upon the underground room, seen the costume and who knows what else, Vogardus was desperate. In a sense, he disintegrated Jarnac to do the dirty work. The Ghoul returned to make sure the secrets stayed secret.



Am I right?
Celeste? Celeste?



Damn?
Now what?



Hey ~ moonlight?
The night sky?
An exit?





Read Me

Fifty-one pages of comics this issue! That leaves us a little cramped for space, but we have a few public-service announcements to get off our chest... Thanks to the Cartoonists of America for ZERO ZERO's second "Best Anthology" nomination in the Harvey Awards (occasional ZZ contributors Charles Burns, Dan Clowes, Bill Griffith, Gilbert Hernandez, Kaz, and Chris Ware were also cited); the results will be announced in mid-April at WonderCon in San Francisco... Thanks to Marc Arsenault for pilching in one last time with the design on this issue (he also colored the cover, based on Michael Dougan's guide)... And so, as we lurk into our third year of publication, we bid you a fond adieu until next time...

—KIM THOMPSON

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Next Issue



Front cover: Michael Dougan
Back cover: Ethan Persoff
Inside front cover: Stephane Blanquet

Editor: Kim Thompson
Art Director: Marc Arsenault
Promotion: Eric Reynolds
Marketing: Chris Jacobs
Circulation: Matt Counts, Tom Malone.

Control Issues



1 ZEROZERO1
(March/April 1995)
TED STEARN premieres "Fuzz and Pluck," PAT MORIARTY and CHARLES BURNES team up, plus MAX ANDERSSON, DAVID COLLIER, GLENN HEAD, DAVID HOLZMAN, FRANK STACK, HENRIETTE VALIUM, J.R. WILLIAMS, and a jam by KIM DETCH and MICHAEL DOUGAN

4 ZEROZERO4
(August 1995)
"Most Boy" by KAZ and GEORGARAKIS debuts, plus COLLIER, a TED STEARN dream story, JEFF JOHNSON, CAROL TYLER, MAX ANDERSSON, a MARK BEYER "Sign of the Apocalypse," plus AL COLUMBIA's 2-color "I Was Killing When Killing Wasn't Cool!"

7 ZEROZERO7
(Jan./Feb. 1996)
Special Christmas story by MAX ANDERSSON, 8-page "Best-World" by BILL GRIFFITH, "Holly" middle chapter by DETCH, plus GILBERT HERNANDEZ, ARCHER PREWITT, and an "Apocalypse" back cover by DAVE COLLIER.

10 ZEROZERO10
(July 1996)
DREW FRIEDMAN cover! Eight pages of HENRIETTE VALIUM New "Monroe" story by SAM HENDERSON! Plus, a SKIP WILLIAMSON back cover, a "Car-Boy" story by MAX ANDERSSON, JEFF JOHNSON, DAVE COLLIER, ALEKSANDAR ZOGRAF, "Homunculus," & "Whistat."

13 ZEROZERO13
(Nov./Dec. 1996)
Big, big chapter of "Fuzz and Pluck," Also, SAM HENDERSON's "Sacred Assets," SKIP WILLIAMSON's "Suddenly Things Turned Ugly," plus "Homunculus," "Whistat," COLLIER, JIM BLANCHARD back cover, and the return of "Idiotland" by DOUG ALLEN

2 ZEROZERO2
(May/June 1995)
RICHARD SALA debuts "The Cuddling Whistat!" MARK WHITE premieres "Homunculus," "Car-Boy" by MAX ANDERSSON! SPAIN'S Trashman! Plus JAPAN, GLENN HEAD, MAIST, DAVID COLLIER, WARINO, and more "Jesus"!

5 ZEROZEROS
(Sept./Oct. 1995)
JOE COLEMAN cover! CHRIS WARE frontispiece! JUSTIN GREEN back cover! KIM DETCH, MAX ANDERSSON's "Curse of the Cuddly Creeps Factory," Part 2 of "Most Boy," "Whistat," COLLIER, and another episode of "Homunculus."

8 ZEROZEROS
(March/April 1996)
Big ol' anniversary issue. Kicked off with a CHARLES BURNES cover, plus two-color "Soft Boy" by ARCHER PREWITT, "Whistat," and "Holly" (Part 1) by AL COLUMBIA, DAVID COLLIER, "Homunculus," TED STEARN, MIKE DIANA, MAX ANDERSSON, VALIUM centerpiece!

11 ZEROZERO11
(August 1996)
DAVE COOPER's epic "Cruticle" begins with a big ol' 17-page chapter! Plus STEARN, SALA, KAZ, MAZZUCHELLI, ANDERSSON, COLLIER, and a back cover by Trailer Trash's ROY TOMPKINS!

14 ZEROZERO14
(Jan./Feb. 1997)
STEPHANE BLANQUET cover, and the first two-color, two-page of many "Saint Stories!" MIKE DIANA TERRY LABANI Plus, of course, more "Whistat," more "Cruticle," and a back cover by KIM DETCH!

3 ZEROZERO3
(July 1995)
SKIP WILLIAMSON and RICK ALTEGOTT debut, FRANK STACK's "Jesus" ends, plus MAX ANDERSSON's pantomime strip "Loita" Plus NEWGARDEN, COLLIER, "Whistat," and "Fuzz and Pluck!"

6 ZEROZEROS
(Nov./Dec. 1995)
KIM DETCH premieres "The Strange Secret of Moby O' Dingo!" Plus "Fuzz and Pluck," "Quackling Whistat," DAVID COLLIER, SKIP WILLIAMSON, PENNY VAN HORN, GLENN HEAD, and a full-color "Sign of the Apocalypse" by RICK ALTEGOTT.

9 ZEROZEROS
(May/June 1996)
SKIP WILLIAMSON takes a trip down draggy lane! Virgin ZZ forays from SAM HENDERSON, STEPHANE BLANQUET, and the trippy duo of SUSAN CATHERINE and OSCAR ZARATE, plus "Whistat," COLLIER, and a HENRIETTE VALIUM back cover.

12 ZEROZERO12
(Sept./Oct. 1996)
MAX ANDERSSON returns with "Death," His biggest and densest story since Play P. REVESS and JOAKIM PIRINEN make their ZZ debut! All this plus COLLIER, COOPER, DOUGAN, and SALA, and a back cover by none-other-than DAN CLOWES!

15 ZEROZERO15
(March 1997)
JOE SACCO goes to Bosnia with his first major comics story since Palestine! SKIP COLLIER, REVESS, COOPER, VALIUM, SALA, HENDERSON's "Giny Stamp Guy," and a "Sign of the Apocalypse" by COLUMBIA!

Contributing Cartoonists (present):
Stephane Blanquet, Dave Cooper, Michael Dougan, Ethan Persoff, Richard Sala, and Ted Stearn.

Contributing Cartoonists (past & future):
Max Andersson, Mark Beyer, Susan Catherine, Bruce Christil, Dan Clowes, David Collier, Al Columbia, Kim Deitch, Mike Diana, Bob Fingermark, Mary Fieerner, Drew Friedman, Timothy Georagarakis,

Francesca Ghermandi, Justin Green, Bill Griffith, Glenn Head, Sam Henderson, David Holzman, Jeff Johnson, Kaz, Kristyne Kryptite, Terry LaBan, Dave Lasky, Mats?, David Mazzucchelli, Pat Moriarty, T. Metzger, Mark Newgarden, Joakim Pirinen, Archer Prewitt, P. Revers, Joe Sacco, Frank Stack, Roy Tompkins, Penny Van Horn, Henriette Valium, Chris Ware, Mark White, J.R. Williams, Skip Williamson, Oscar Zarate, and Aleksandar Zograf.

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A blue cartoon character with a crown and a sign that says "IN". The character has a large head, a small body, and a friendly expression. It is wearing a blue crown with a white gem. A white sign with the word "IN" in black letters is attached to its chest. The character is set against a background of black and white squares.

ZERO APOCALYPSE
ZERO'S FUNNIES **TODAY**

TODAY: ESCAPE!

PHILORP

I'M
FREE!

THWOP



FFFFFFFFTTTTTT

-Fin

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